

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 XMB-04

/110 W

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R 191420Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9042

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 1810

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, FI

SUBJECT: FOREIGN PRODUCT STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

REF: STATE 182572

1. THE STANDARDIZATION ASSOCIATION OF FINLAND (SFS) IS A NON-GOVERNMENT BODY WHOSE JOB IS TO COORDINATE NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITIES. SFS'S GOAL IS TO PROMOTE THE USE OF STANDARDS AND TO COLLECT NATIONAL STANDARDS WHICH WILL MEET THE DEMANDS OF BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. SFS ALSO TAKES CARE OF THE CONFIRMATION, PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTION OF FINNISH STANDARDS.

2. AS A GENERAL RULE MOST STANDARDS ARE VOLUNTARY. GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES CAN, HOWEVER, REQUIRE THAT A CERTAIN STANDARD BE MADE COMPULSORY. MANDATORY STANDARDS CONSTITUTE ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF ALL STANDARDS ISSUED BY SFS.

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3. BEFORE STANDARDS ARE DETERMINED, EXISTING INTER-

NATIONAL STANDARDS ARE CONSULTED. SFS PREFERS TO USE ISO STANDARDS WHEN APPLICABLE AND AVAILABLE. IN MANY CASES, STANDARDS WHICH ARE ACCEPTABLE IN SCANDINAVIAN AND OTHER EFTA COUNTRIES ARE ALSO ACCEPTABLE IN FINLAND.

4. THE INITIATIVE FOR ESTABLISHING OR CHANGING A STANDARD CAN BE MADE BY ANY MEMBER OF SFS'S FUNCTIONAL COLLECTIVE ASSOCIATION (TAY). THE PLANNING OF NEW STANDARDS IS DONE BY THE SFS IN COOPERATION WITH THE FUNCTIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF VARIOUS FIELDS WHO HAVE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH SFS. PROCEDURES ALLOW FOR ADVANCE PUBLICATION AND COMMENTS BY ALL INTERESTED PARTIES.

5. TAY DETERMINES THE GENERAL LINES AND URGENCY OF STANDARDIZATION FOR A PARTICULAR PRODUCT. THIS PRELIMINARY WORK IS DONE ACCORDING TO PRINCIPLES PROVIDED BY THE BOARD OF STANDARDIZATION IN FINLAND. TAY APPOINTS A COMMITTEE TO PREPARE THE PROPOSAL OF STANDARDIZATION OR GIVES THE TASK TO AN ALREADY EXISTING COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE PREPARES THE PROPOSAL AND PRESENTS IT TO TAY. TAY INSPECTS THAT THE PROPOSAL DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH ANY OTHER SFS-STANDARDS. IF THERE IS A CONFLICT, TAY WILL RETURN THE PROPOSAL TO THE COMMITTEE. OTHERWISE, TAY WILL DELIVER THE PROPOSAL OF STANDARDIZATION AND THE ACCOMPANYING LETTER PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE TO THE TECHNICAL SECRETARY OF SFS, RECOMMENDING THAT THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED A SFS-STANDARD. THE TECHNICAL SECRETARY WILL TURN OVER THE PROPOSAL TO THE PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT OF THE SFS. THEREAFTER, THE PROPOSAL WILL BE SENT TO TAY AND FINLAND'S BOARD OF STANDARDIZATION FOR CONFIRMATION. THREE-FOURTHS OF THE MEMBERS ON FINLAND'S BOARD OF STANDARDIZATION MUST APPROVE THE STANDARD BEFORE IT IS CONFIRMED.

6. MAJOR INSTITUTIONS WRITING STANDARDS:

- GRAPHICAL CENTRAL ASSOCIATION
- OY CENTRAL LABORATORY

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- OFFICE RATIONALIZATION ASSOCIATION
- BOARD OF NATURAL GAS
- STANDARDIZATION CENTER OF THE METAL INDUSTRY (TES)
- THE PRESSURE BOILING BOARD
- PEKEMA OY (SUBSIDIARY OF NESTE OY, SUPPLYING RAW MATERIAL FOR PLASTICS INDUSTRY)
- STANDARDIZATION CENTER OF THE PROCESSING INDUSTRY
- CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

- FOUNDATION OF CONSTRUCTION KNOWLEDGE
- BOARD FOR EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS
- THE FINNISH ELECTRO-TECHNICAL STANDARDIZATION ASSOCIATION (SESKO)
- THE STANDARDIZATION ASSOCIATION (TEVASTA)
- FINLAND'S LITERATURE SERVICE LEAGUE
- THE ASSOCIATION OF FINNISH GLASS AND CERAMIC INDUSTRIES
- FINLAND'S PLASTICS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
- FINLAND'S PACKING ASSOCIATION
- FINLAND'S FIRE FIGHTING ASSOCIATION
- FINLAND'S BANKING ASSOCIATION
- THE ASSOCIATION OF FINLAND'S CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS
- RADIATION PHYSICAL INSTITUTE
- COMPUTORIZING ASSOCIATION
- CALIBRATION OFFICE
- RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY OF THE STATE.
- WATER BOARD

7. SFS TRIES TO FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION AND TO REACH SUCH MUTUAL AGREEMENTS WHICH WOULD DEVELOP AND STIMULATE THE TECHNICAL-ECONOMIC RECIPROCITY BETWEEN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. FINLAND'S FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS AUTHORIZED SFS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STANDARDIZATION WORK BETWEEN DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS.  
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## Message Attributes

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